



What is the Iowa Youth Congress?

The Iowa Youth Congress is a civic leadership development opportunity for Iowa high school students with an emphasis on the recruitment of students of color. The program reached out through regional meetings to teach students about developing policy issues from grassroots ideas, collaborating across diverse populations, and contributing to public life. The IYC culminates in a Mock General Assembly for 100 students, who prioritize their issues and debate various points of view.

Words from a Former Member

The program put me around other minorities who also had plans to further their education...

I realized I wasn't alone! And that played a huge role in my feelings towards higher education.

The chance to really speak my mind and express how I felt about different topics was just great.

[It] made me feel like I was really someone.

- Cesar Pelaez



Students participate in the 4th Annual Session in the Iowa House Chamber, November 2009.

Come Witness the Iowa Youth Congress in Action!

Annual Event

The Iowa Youth Congress will be celebrating their 5th Annual Iowa Youth Congress Session in Des Moines on November 12-13, 2010.

November 12, 2010

8:30am-4:00pm: 5th Annual Session at the Iowa State Capitol House Chambers

- Students are welcomed by members of the Iowa General Assembly; meet in committees to discuss issues; debate issues in House Chambers; vote on top three issues to present to the Iowa General Assembly this coming session.

6:30pm-8:00pm: 4th Annual Dream Forward Dinner, Holiday Inn Downtown

- The Dream Forward Dinner recognizes the work accomplished by the Iowa Youth Congress and the program sponsors. This year's keynote speaker is Sukriti Nayer, the first President of the Iowa Youth Congress. Sukriti will speak on her experience and how that experience has helped her prepare for her future.

November 13, 2010

9:00am-2:00pm: Planning Session at Des Moines Diocese

- Congress meets by region, where they will have the opportunity to practice advocating for their bills to the Iowa General Assembly and the state. Students will learn to propose their bills, gain community support and determine necessary criteria to move these issues forward.

For more information visit website below or contact the Office of Latino Affairs, an Office in the Iowa Department of Human Rights.